

INTELLOFAX 13

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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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TOPIC Military Information from Letzling Heath

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 26 October to 15 November 1950

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 December 1950

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 26 October 1950, the camp in the woods at Letzling Heath (M 53/Y 53) was occupied by only a guard unit of 200 to 300 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets. The motor vehicles from the camp had been driven to the barracks installation at the Hillersleben range. According to rumors among local residents, the troops, who had been previously observed leaving the camp, had been at Altengrabow temporarily. *
2. For the past four weeks, wooden barracks and motor vehicle sheds were being hurriedly constructed in the area between the former civil servants' settlements and the headquarters of the Hillersleben artillery range. A board fence, about 2 meters high, was being erected, blocking the houses on the market square, the settlement, and the range headquarters from the road toward Hillersleben. The reconstruction of the damaged houses on and near the market square, Hillersleben, and of the two houses north of the range headquarters was completed. The buildings served as troop quarters and were apparently occupied to capacity. The approach road to the concrete road running past the eastern barracks, the garages, and the southern firing position, and the road leading to the workmen's settlement via the market square were blocked to traffic. The fields around the southern firing position could no longer be cultivated. The German occupants of the workmen's settlement were to use a new road when going to Hillersleben. The road was completed in early November.
3. The billeting area, composed of the eastern barracks, the range headquarters, the houses on Siegerplatz, the civil servants' settlement on the market square, and the two houses north of the range headquarters, was occupied to capacity by an estimated 3,000 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank and artillery insignia; black-bordered red epaulets; and black epaulets with signal insignia. Ten tanks covered with canvas were seen at the garages of the eastern barracks. About 20 trucks, 15 of which were towing AA guns of about 50 mm. were seen moving into the billeting area in mid-October.

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4. The Hillersleben billeting area quartered troops who had been stationed there previously and others who had come from the camp in the woods of Letzling Heath. Source had the impression that the troops would stay in the billets throughout the winter. Apart from training in firing, the troops did not engage in any training activity. The information on the troops in the Hillersleben billeting area was confirmed [redacted]

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5. No Soviet troops were quartered in Haldersleben. [redacted]

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* [redacted] comment. [redacted] the camp in the woods of Letzling Heath as having been vacated by troops. [redacted] The troops who temporarily left the camp prior to that time were components of the 19th Gds Mecz Div which [redacted] had departed for field exercises at the end of September and returned to Letzling Heath on 12 October. [redacted] The units probably participated in the Third Shock Army fall maneuvers held in the Magdeburg-Altengrabow-Rosslau area.

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** [redacted] comment. [redacted] the units in the Hillersleben billeting area definitely belonged to the 19th Gds Mecz Div. It can therefore be assumed with a fair degree of certainty that the units are to remain at the post and were not quartered there only temporarily, as was previously believed. Since it has been established by [redacted] report that elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div also moved into barracks installations in Magdeburg at the beginning of November, the 19th Gds Mecz Div can now be considered confirmed as being billeted in the Magdeburg-Hillersleben area, and thus staying in its army area. See [redacted]

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